CLAIMS

1. Method for manufacturing sheets of agglomerate material comprising, in succession *the following steps* :

- ~~a first step involving~~ preparation of a mix by mixing inert materials of predetermined particle size with an organic binder,
- ~~a second step involving~~ distribution of said mix inside a tray mould so as to form a layer of mix,
- ~~a third step involving~~ vacuum vibro-compaction in order to obtain a compacted sheet, and
- ~~a fourth step involving~~ *catalytic* hardening of the organic binder by means of heating ovens in order to obtain the final sheet,

the method being characterized, *at the end of said vacuum vibro-compaction step, ~~in that~~ by an additional step* ~~an intermediate step involving~~ *which consists in subjecting* ~~dielectric preheating of~~ the compacted sheet *to a dielectric preheating by means of electromagnetic waves of a frequency less than 300 MHz in order to attain a temperature lower than the temperature at which catalysis of the binder starts.* ~~is introduced between said third vacuum vibro compaction step and said hardening step~~.

~~2. Method according to Claim 1, characterized in that said intermediate step involving dielectric preheating of the compacted sheet is performed by means of heating with electromagnetic radiofrequency waves having a frequency of less than 300 MHz.~~

~~3.~~ 2. Method according to Claim ~~2~~ 1, characterized in that said radiofrequency waves have a frequency ranging between 25 and 35 MHz.

~~4.~~ 3. Method according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that, during the said intermediate preheating step, the compacted sheet reaches a temperature ~~lower than the temperature at which catalysis of the binder starts and preferably~~ ranging between 75°C and 78°C.

~~5.~~ 4. Method according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that it ~~may be used for a~~ *the* mix ~~which contains~~ *is of a type comprising expanded* ~~granulates of the expanded type~~.

~~6.~~ 5. Plant for manufacturing sheets of agglomerate material using the method according to any one of the preceding claims and comprising, in succession, a first

station (20) for preparing a mix by mixing a granulate of predetermined particle size with a binder consisting of organic resins, a second station (30) for distributing said mix inside a tray mould (12) so as to form a layer of mix, a third vacuum vibro-compaction station (40) for obtaining a compacted sheet, and a final hardening station (60) comprising at least one heating oven for catalysis of the organic binder so as to obtain the final sheet, characterized in that an intermediate station (50) is arranged between said third vibro-compaction station (40) and said final hardening station (60) *and comprises means generating of electromagnetic waves having a frequency less than 300 MHz* for ~~dielectric~~ preheating ~~of~~ said compacted sheet *up to a temperature lower than the temperature at which catalysis of the binder starts.*

~~7. Plant according to Claim 6 5, characterized in that said preheating station (50) uses electromagnetic waves with a frequency of less than 300 MHz.~~

~~8.~~ 6. Plant according to Claim ~~7~~ 5, characterized in that *said means in the preheating station (50) are able to generate* electromagnetic waves having a frequency of between 25 and 35 MHz ~~are used in said preheating station (50)~~.

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